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21 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Follow-up to Senator Symington

1. On the afternoon of Tuesday, 19 July, [ ] an officer on the Vietnamese Affairs Staff directed my attention to an article written by Charles Mohr on 20 May 1966 and published in the New York Times edition of 21 May. This article dealt with the pacification program in Vietnam, rural development cadre and their training, and in essence provided an almost direct refutation of the points made in Mr. Mohr's 18 July article inserted into the Congressional Record by Senator McCarthy.

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2. I called Mr. Helms to advise him of the earlier Mohr article and of the fact that Mohr had himself provided the antidote to his 18 July piece. Mr. Helms asked that I relay this information directly to Senator Symington. I called the Senator and discussed the matter with him. He asked me to come to his office at 0930 on Wednesday, 20 July, to polish the text of his statement and insert this new material in it.

3. Accompanied by [ ] I went to the Senator's office as requested. We showed him the May Mohr article which he read with considerable interest. We worked out an additional two paragraphs of his draft statement highlighting the fact that the New York Times correspondent (Mohr) had himself contradicted the allegations and assertions made in the article of 18 July. We also called the Senator's attention to the fact that Senator McCarthy, in his statement in the Congressional Record, had misquoted a key phrase in the concluding paragraph of Mr. Mohr's 18 July piece. Mohr had said:

"... The [CIA] was not unhappy to take a less prominent part in what had become the largest overt program in its history".

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Senator McCarthy had rendered this:

"... The Agency was not happy to take a less prominent part..."

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4. Senator Symington then went over the entire text of his proposed statement asking for and receiving our editorial suggestions. In it he asked the Senate's consent to insert into the Record the unclassified text of his report on his own trip to Vung Tau. He had given me a copy of this report on 19 July and I had passed this to [ ] The Senator asked if we had any comments on this report; we called his attention to several minor factual errors which he thereupon corrected.

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5. The concluding paragraphs of the Senator's draft statement are devoted to the larger questions about the Agency's role which Senator McCarthy had raised the preceding day. Senator Symington referred his colleagues to Admiral Raborn's comments made on "Meet the Press" on Sunday, 17 July, and asked the Senate's consent to insert the entire transcript of that session of "Meet the Press" into the Congressional Record.

6. Senator Symington expressed his thanks for our assistance in drafting the statement, and added a few parting words of high praise for the Agency and its new Director.

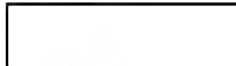
George A. Carver, Jr.  
Acting Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

1 - DCI [ ]  
1 - Legislative Counsel (Mr. Warner)  
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GACarver, Jr.

I have already called Dick about this visit, hence he does not need to waste time on reading this mamemorandum. However, you might find it useful for your records.

George A. Carver, Jr.

21/7/66

Mr. John Warner

GACarver, Jr.

Attached is a short note on yesterday  
morning's session with Symington.

George A. Carver, Jr.